

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02363 250843Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W  
-----252107Z 097663 /46

R 241757Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0682  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2363

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PDIP PFOR AO MZ PU PO  
SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH FORMER COLONIES

REF: MAPUTO 294 (DTG 230830Z MAR 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY:PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS  
TO PRESIDENT MARCH 23, MARKING A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN THE  
DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH LUANDA. PORTUGUESE LEADERS ARE HOPEFUL  
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02363 250843Z POSS DUPE

THAT THEIR PERSONAL TIES WITH ANGOLAN LEADERS WILL ENABLE THEM  
TO REBUILD GOOD RELATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RECENT MAPUTO  
DECISION TO EXPEL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RENOUNCED MOZAMBICAN  
NATIONALITY WILL AGGRAVATE ALREADY POOR PORTUGUESE-MOZAMBICAN  
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. NETO SAYS UNDERSTANDING IS POSSIBLE: FIRST PORTUGUESE

AMBASSADOR TO SA COUTINHO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS MARCH 23 TO PRESIDENT NETO. NETO SAID THE FOLLOWING:

-- HISTORICAL TIES UNITE US, AND RACE, ORIGIN, IDEOLOGY, AND POLITICS DO NOT DIVIDE OUR PEOPLES.  
-- WE ARE DIVIDED BY THE HISTORY OF COLONIALISM.  
-- HOMAGE SHOULD BE PAID TO THE PROGRESSIVE PORTUGUESE WHO SUFFERED AND STRUGGLED ON OUR SIDE.  
-- "OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE DIFFERENT OPTIONS, BUT UNDERSTANDING IS POSSIBLE FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE AS LONG AS WE ASSUME WITH INTEGRITY RESPECT FOR THE RULES WHICH GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS."  
-- "AMBASSADOR SA COUTINHO WILL BE ASSURED THE NECESSARY RECEPTION BY ANGOLAN LEADERS TO CARRY OUT HIS MISSION DESPITE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM." FONMIN SECGEN NOGUEIRA TOLD DCM MAR 23 THAT NETO'S SPEECH WAS "O.K. -- IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE."

2. PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN AFRICA: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MARCH 22 THAT 120 PORTUGUESE PRISONERS ARE CURRENTLY DETAINED IN ANGOLA AND 40 IN MOZAMBIQUE ON CHARGES RANGING FROM COMMON CRIMES TO POLITICAL OFFENSES. THE FONMIN SAID MOZAMBIQUE HAD HELD 200 PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN 1976 AND FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ENGAGED IN CONSTANT EFFORTS TO RETURN THESE PRISONERS TO PORTUGAL. INDEPENDENT DEPUTY GALVAO DE MELO, WHO HAS ATTACKED THE GOP FOR ITS HANDLING OF PORTUGUESE IMPRISONED IN THE FORMER COLONIES, PRAISED THE "EXTREMELY COURAGEOUS POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN THE FORMER COLONIES AND THE MERITORIOUS EFFORT  
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PAGE 03 LISBON 02363 250843Z POSS DUPE

CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN THE LIBERATION OF SEVERAL DOZEN PRISONERS IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS."

3. MOZAMBIQUE EXPULSIONS: ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, FONMIN MEDEIROS FERREIRA TOLD THE PRESS MAR 22 THAT THE MOZAMBIKAN DECISION TO EXPEL CERTAIN RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RENOUNCED MOZAMBIKAN NATIONALITY (REFTEL) " COULD ONLY PREJUDICE ALREADY DIFFICULT RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND MOZAMBIQUE." HE NOTED THAT "IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR MOZAMBIKAN AUTHORITIES NOT TO FORGET THAT WE HAVE MOZAMBIKANS HERE WHO COULD HAVE OPTED FOR PORTUGUESE NATIONALITY."

4. EXCHANGE WITH GUINEA BISSAU: THE GOP RELEASED THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN PRESIDENT EANES AND PRESIDENT LUIS CABRAL. CABRAL EXPRESSED "THE FIRM BELIEF THAT PORTUGAL AND GUINEA BISSAU COULD FIND HUMAN AND CULTURAL TIES TO LINK THE TWO PEOPLES AND REINFORCE THE VARIED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." EANES'S NOTE TO CABRAL WAS DELIVERED BY HIS PERSONAL STAFFER, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO YUGOSLAVIA

ALVARO GUERRA. GUERRA WAS RECEIVED MAR 21 BY CABRAL, THE COMMISSAR FOR THE ARMED FORCES, AND ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT NINO FERREIRA.

5. COMMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AT THE AMABASSADORIAL LEVEL IS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN PORTUGUESE- ANGOLAN RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT SINCE GOP DELAYED RECOGNIZING MPLA AFTER INDEPENDENCE. PORTUGUESE LEADERS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEIR PERSONAL TIES WITH NETO AND OTHER ANGOLANS WILL ENABLE THEM TO REBUILD GOOD RELATIONS. RELATIONS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU, NEVER BAD, CONTINUE WARM, BUT THE GOP HOLDS LITTLE HOPE FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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